



Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

City of Brockton, MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Brockton for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. The City is the recipient of a Brownfields Assessment Pilot and a Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot. Brockton (population 93,000) is located in Southeastern Massachusetts 20 miles south of Boston. The blue-collar City is both a suburb of Boston and the central city within Plymouth County. Brockton's unemployment rate has been above the statewide average for nearly 20 years. The city-wide poverty rate is 14 percent and the medium household income is 25 percent less than the rest of the region.

The Job Training Pilot will focus on the City's Economic Corridor, which runs north-south parallel to the railroad system. Economic Corridor neighborhoods encompass half of the City's residents living on public assistance. Many of City's 100 identified brownfield sites are located in the Economic Corridor. Redevelopment along the Economic Corridor is essential to providing jobs for city residents. However, no environmental training programs exist in the City at this time and the City has no resident "Licensed Site Professionals" to employ in assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment activities.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Brockton,
Massachusetts*

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot will train 40-50 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from low-income residents of the City's Economic Corridor, which encompasses half of the City's residents living on public assistance and many of the City's 100 identified brownfields.

Contacts:

City of Brockton
(508) 580-7113

Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 1
(617) 918-1209

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflid/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The City of Brockton plans to train 40-50 participants, achieve a 75 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from among the low-income residents of the Economic Corridor. The Pilot training program will consist of courses on information gathering and analysis for site assessments, site remediation techniques, lab techniques for collecting and analyzing samples, and environmental health and safety. The courses will require 16 weeks, 40 hours per week, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies.

The training efforts of the City of Brockton will be supported by organizations such as the Brockton Area Private Industry Council, Massasoit Community College, Fleet Environmental Services, and Jobs for Youth. Classes will be offered both day-time and evening, and certificates will be offered in Environmental Technology and 40-hour OSHA health and safety. Local employers have committed to hire participants to fill environmental jobs.

ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit low-income residents of the Economic Corridor;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.